Steps to check rising prices of edible oils

14. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to check rising prices of edible oils, Government has decided to withdraw permission granted to certain categories of institutions from 1st June to store oil-seeds and edible oils;

(b) if so, to what extent the edible oils storage amendment order has helped in checking the prices;

(c) whether it is a fact that edible oils were imported from various countries at a higher rate;

(d) if so, what is the total quantity of edible oils imported during the current year;

(e) what was the total amount involved in importing the edible oils; and

(f) what was the rate on which the edible oils were sold in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KALMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the effective date of implementation is 1st July, 1994.

(b) The Edible Oil Storage (Amendment) Order is expected to have sobering effect on the prices of edible oils. Price variations are dependent on a number of factors. It is difficult to quantify the impact of a single factor.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. During the current financial year (till date), the total quantity of edible oils (RBD Palmolein) contracted for import by STC is of the order of 60,000 MT valued at Rs. 105 crores (approximately).

(f) The RED Palmolein contracted for import by STC is meant for supply through PDS. The central issue price for oils supplied in bulk is Rs. 22,000 PMT and for oils supplied in 15 kg. tins is Rs. 25,000/- PMT.

Rise in prices of edible oils

15. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for continuous increase in the prices of edible oils; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb the rise in prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KALMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Some of the reasons for increase in the prices of edible oils are attributable to the gap between demand and supply of edible oils, general inflationary conditions, approach of lean period of the season etc.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to curb the rise in prices of edible oils include permission to import edible vegetable palmolein oil, raising the minimum margin on Bank advances against oilseeds and vegetable oils by 15 per cent point across the board together with reducing level of credit ceiling by 15 per cent point under selective credit control by RBI, withdrawal of permission which was hitherto granted to certain categories of organisations to stock edible oils and oilseeds etc. Besides, the Government has also constituted an Inter-Minsterial Coordination Committee for monitoring and forecasting the prices and supply of essential commodities including vegetable oils.